

WIN WITHOUT WAR



Progressive Foreign Policy Debrief

Intel for Advocacy

TOPLINE TAKEAWAY

- *This week in Trump's reckless foreign policy: allying with terrorists, enabling atrocities, and ignoring human rights abuses.*

U.S. PARTNERSHIPS IN THE GULF RUN COUNTER TO OUR VALUES AND NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS

Three big news items this week neatly encapsulate all that is wrong with Donald Trump's foreign policy. They highlight how he is enabling human rights abuses and misbegotten military adventures carried out by dictators and autocrats in the Persian Gulf -- some of whom are supposed to be our allies in the fight against terrorism -- while at the same time continuing to slowly dismantle our traditional alliances.

OUR 'FRIENDS': SAUDI ARABIA & THE UAE

The first bit of news came out of Yemen, where the United States is partnering with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in allegedly trying to root out Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), while at the same time supporting a separate Saudi/UAE war against Yemen's Houthi rebels, in what Trump officials say is an effort to push back against supposed Iranian expansion in the region.

It turns out, the AP [reported](#) this week, that Saudi Arabia and the UAE have been taking it easy on AQAP for years, paying them off, cutting deals, and even recruiting them into their ranks in their fight against the Houthis – **policies that effectively ally the United States with AQAP, with the U.S. serving at times as its de facto air force in Yemen.**

If that's not enough for us to start wondering whether our partnerships with Saudi Arabia and the UAE in these fights are in our best interests, combine that with the fact that the U.S.-backed Saudi-led war against the Houthis in Yemen is flaming the world's largest humanitarian crisis, by using starvation as a weapon of war and deliberately targeting civilians in airstrikes. Just yesterday, the **Saudi coalition bombed a school bus killing more than 50 people**, including dozens of children in what a coalition spokesman called a "[legitimate military action](#)."

Read that again. **They're not even sorry about it.** They're not even pretending they were trying to hit something else.

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“U.S. bombs. U.S. targeting. U.S. mid air support,” Sen. Chris Murphy [tweeted](#). “And we just bombed a SCHOOL BUS. The Saudi/UAE/U.S. bombing campaign is getting more reckless, killing more civilians, and strengthening terrorists inside Yemen. We need to end this - NOW.”

(Also check out Win Without War Director Stephen Miles Twitter [thread](#) on the school bus bombing. And for more on the U.S.’s unsavory U.S./Saudi relationship, check out [today’s Daily Podcast](#) from the CATO Institute.)

LEAVING CANADA HANGING

The other piece of news this week that neatly personifies how Trump is casting our friends aside and enabling the worst in our so-called allies also came out of Saudi Arabia. After Canada [criticized](#) the Saudi government for jailing human rights activists, the Saudis went ballistic, [expelling](#) Canada’s ambassador, [suspending](#) trade, [cancelling](#) state airline flights to Canada, and [forcing](#) Saudi students in Canada to seek education elsewhere. A Saudi government Twitter account even tweeted a (since-deleted) infographic of a Canadian jetliner flying toward the Toronto skyline, complete with an apparent threat that looked an awful lot like a reference to 9/11.

You’d assume that, given how much effort the United States has traditionally put into promoting human rights, and that Canada is the America’s biggest trading partner and perhaps closest ally, the State Department would step in and back up our friendly neighbor to the north. But that’s not what happened. Instead, the State Department issued some [milquetoast statement](#) about how both sides need to work out their differences. Sound [familiar](#)?

So not only is the Trump administration refusing to stand up for human rights in one of the world’s most repressive countries, but it’s also using the incident to [drive a wedge](#) between the U.S. and its traditional allies.

BURIED LEDES

Following reporting by the AP and campaigning by Win Without War and our partners, **the Army has stopped, temporarily, kicking out immigrant service members** who enlisted [seeking](#) a path to citizenship. See our statement on this [here](#).

[Europe, Russia, and China](#) have condemned Trump’s reimposition of sanctions on Iran and are **vowing to pursue business in Iran despite American penalties**.

Trump’s son-in-law Jared Kushner is [pushing](#) to abolish a U.N. agency charged with aiding Palestinians, **a move that will effectively eliminate their status as refugees**.

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The New York Times magazine's [deep dive](#) this week **explores America's endless wars** and how "the Pentagon's failed campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan left a generation of soldiers with little to fight for but for one another."

A [new poll](#) from our friends at National Security Action finds that **voters aren't too happy with Trump on national security**, leaving the door open for Democrats in this fall's midterms. But will they [capitalize on that opportunity](#)?

No one still really knows what Trump and Putin talked about during their private meeting in Helsinki but one leaked [document](#) shows that **Putin lobbied Trump on starting new arms control talks**.

It [appears](#) that Sen. Cory Booker may have known after all that he was **holding a sign promoting Palestinian rights** before his office claimed he had no idea what he was doing.

Trump National Security Advisor John Bolton this week was out publicly [setting unachievable demands](#) for North Korea's denuclearization, **setting up the potential for renewed confrontation with Kim Jong-un**.

And finally, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo accused Iran of being "**at odds with world peace**" this week. Perhaps he should [take a look in the mirror too](#).